



**State Board of Education Request for  
Freeway School Accreditation**

<b>Name of Requesting School:</b>	Cathedral High School
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<b>Board Date:</b>	September 1, 2010	<b>Grade Span:</b>	9-12
<b>Education Director:</b>	David Worland	<b>Public or Private:</b>	Private
<b>Location Address:</b>	5225 East 56 <sup>th</sup> Street	<b>Enrollment:</b>	1250
<b>City/Town:</b>	Indianapolis	<b>Targeted Student Population:</b>	College Preparatory

**Indiana Department of Education**

**Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation**

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

**Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:**

- 1. Identity** - Cathedral High School is a coed college preparatory private Catholic day school serving about 1250 students in grades 9-12. Cathedral prides herself on selecting a student body that exhibits socioeconomic diversity, religious diversity, academic diversity, ethnic diversity, and geographic diversity. Students are drawn from the greater Indianapolis metropolitan area, encompassing over 100 grade schools and eleven counties. This diverse student body is about 78% Catholic and about 17% 3% minority. Nearly 41% of the students receive either merit or need-based financial aid, with nearly 30% receiving solely need-based aid.
- 2. Attendance** – During this contract period, Cathedral will continue to maintain an attendance rate that exceeds 95%.
- 3. Graduation** – Cathedral is committed to maintain its history of graduation rates at 99%.
- 4. Benchmarks** –
  - a. Acceptance of Students to College of Their Choice
  - b. Attendance Rate
  - c. End of Course Assessments
  - d. Graduation Rate
  - e. International Baccalaureate Participation/Completion Rate
  - f. PSAT
  - g. SAT/ACT
- 5. Staffing** – Cathedral High School has a large percentage of teaching staff holding a valid Indiana teaching license or is in the process of renewal of their license.
- 6. Waiver Requests:**
  - a. Cathedral High School respectfully requests that the regulations concerning textbook selections be suspended. (511/AC 6.1-5-5) Generally, Cathedral chooses

textbooks from the selections adopted by the state. Occasionally, however, the school's Catholic college-preparatory mission requires that books not on the state list be adopted.

- b. Cathedral High School respectfully requests that the regulations concerning the employment of a licensed media specialist be suspended. (511 IAC 6.1-5-6). While Cathedral has employed licensed media specialists for many years, the media center is currently managed by a team of experienced library employees and an administrator. There has been no drop-off in the services provided, and the media services department continues to be well-funded. The media center is used by students and faculty from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily, and it is a partner with the Indianapolis/Marion County Public Library system.
- c. Cathedral High School respectfully requests that the regulations concerning the employment of only properly licensed administrators, teachers, and student specialists be suspended. (511 IAC 6.1-6-1). The school's faculty includes approximately 100 teachers, the vast majority of whom are properly licensed in their field. Occasionally, Cathedral has the opportunity to hire a teacher or administrator who, through life experience or education, has special skills and/or talents to enhance the experience of the students. These individuals are generally hired with the clearly communicated understanding that they will pursue the coursework necessary to earn or to renew their licenses.
- d. Cathedral High School respectfully requests that the regulations concerning the six-hour requirement for every day be suspended. (IC 20-30-2-2(a)) This request applies only to our semester exam administration days. To accommodate the loss of the half-day option, Cathedral has implemented full day exam schedules. While the intent of the "no half-day rule" is to maximize meaningful time in the classroom, Cathedral has found that this intent cannot be achieved on semester exam days.

**Issues:**

- 1. Teacher licensing and
- 2. Requested waiver of the six hour instructional day requirement.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that Cathedral High School be granted Freeway Accreditation for five years through September 1, 2015 and that this approval does not include the requested waiver of the full six hour day requirement during final exams.

**Rationale:** After an on-site visit and discussion with staff, the faculty at High School Cathedral meets/exceeds that typically found in a Freeway school.